



## MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN.

William Buckminster, Editor.

SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 2, 1850.

### NATIONAL MATTERS.

In a Session of three months the national legislature has done but little. This is better than to make rapid progress in a wrong direction. Too much legislation worse than too little. It is said the only bill of consequence yet passed is one to grant for life the privilege of franking to the widow of the late President Polk—he having left his widow only \$100,000 for her maintenance. How many widows have we in New England who have children in the West to correspond with, and who are obliged to sew, and knit stockings to pay postage enough to make up for this Franking?

The truth is his privilege of franking is the most odious one in our law, and ought not to be continued in favor of people not in actual public service. It operates unequally and unfairly.

Our representatives in Congress come from different places and represent a great variety of interests. They must have time to become acquainted with each other's views before they can be expected to accomplish much in the way of legislation. In an assembly of 231 members no one can expect to accomplish much without acting in concert with numerous other members. To move onward alone in such an assembly is to insure defeat.

The Executive department of the government has not a majority in the House. The elections of members from the slave States turned upon the single question of slavery or no slavery, and Gen. Taylor finds as strong opposition from the Slave States as from any quarter of the Free. Those members who favor his Fabian system—his forbearance and his mild policy—intend to move cautiously. They are opposed to risking all by one false move. They are therefore opposed to the abolition of the spirit ration and flogging in the navy, resumed. And after a good deal of discussion, all the amendments were rejected without count, and the yeas and nays were taken on Mr. Wilson's original resolves.

The vote was 220 years to 35 nays, and accordingly the resolves were ordered to a third reading.

As passed the resolves read thus:

Resolved, That our Senators and Representatives in the Congress of the United States are respectfully requested to use their best exertions to procure the abolition of the spirit ration in the navy; and also, the abolition of the cruel and degrading system of flogging for the preservation of discipline, and the substitution of a more humane system thereof.

Resolved, That the Governor be requested to transmit a copy of these resolves to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress.

### LEGISLATIVE.

FRIDAY, Feb. 22.

**SENATE.**—Passed to be enacted—Resolves, in favor of Zabina E. Newcomer, in favor of the cause of Yorkville, Boston, additional, &c., in concerning the South Lee Manufacturing Co; additional, &c., incorporating the city of New Bedford; concerning the compensation of Sheriffs; concerning the competency of witnesses.

The Plurality bill relating to Representatives in Congress, &c., was debated by Messrs. Merrick and Benjamin. The amendment referring to the subject of the people, was rejected—yeas 11; nays 30—Absent 2.

The bill was then refused a third reading—yeas 15; nays 28—Absent 2. Mr. Walker asked to be excused from voting, and his request was refused.

So the bill was rejected.

The bill additional to act for the better observance of the Lord's Day was then taken up, debated, and rejected, 15 to 19.

**HOUSE.**—Passed to be enacted. Bills in addition, &c., to establish the City of New Bedford; in addition, &c., concerning the State Prison; in addition, &c., to incorporate the Grand Junction Railroad and Depot Company; to establish the Quabbin Seminary.

Petitions presented and referred of the Southbridge and Blackstone, and Willimantic Railroad Companies; in aid of that of Robert Codman.

The orders of the day were then taken up, and the consideration of the resolves for the abolition of the spirit ration and flogging in the navy, resumed. And after a good deal of discussion, all the amendments were rejected without count, and the yeas and nays were taken on Mr. Wilson's original resolves.

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FRIDAY, Feb. 23.

**SENATE.**—Passed to be engrossed—Bills concerning the Grand Junction Railroad; establishing the Quabbin Seminary; in relation to the State Prison.

Reports of Committees—On Towns—Bills, to incorporate the towns of Clinton and Groveland.

On Public Charitable Institutions—Bill to incorporate the Worcester County Mechanics' Association.

Passed to be engrossed—Resolves on petition of William A. Wheeler.

**HOUSE.**—Passed to be enacted. Bills—in addition, &c., concerning the distribution of School Funds; and other documents, relating to the name of the New Hampshire Seminary in Salem; in addition, &c., concerning the tax on sales by auction. Resolved, in favor of the towns of Hancock, East Bridgewater, Rehoboth, and North Bridgewater.

Order adopted. For the appointment of a Special Committee on the new valuation of the State, to sit during the recess.

Debatable matters were then taken up, and there was a good deal of further discussion on the bill relating to banks of marriage.

The bill was ordered to a third reading.

MONDAY, Feb. 25.

**SENATE.**—Seven Resolves, and fifteen Bills, including those to incorporate the Ware Savings Bank; to annex part of Sharon to Foxborough; concerning the duties of the Attorney General; to provide further penalties for wilfully obstructing railroads, passed to be engrossed.

The bill to extend the powers of Collectors of taxes, was debated and finally passed to a third reading.

The bill protecting ice intended for merchandise was passed to a third reading.

**HOUSE.**—Senate papers were disposed of in concurrence.

Passed to be Enacted—Bill concerning the Charles River and Warren Bridges.

Some petitions &c. were presented and referred, among them several in favor of the passage of a law.

After a long debate, the resolve authorizing the Board of Education to appoint agents was passed.

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## THE POET'S CORNER.

(For the Ploughman.)

### REMEMBER THE SUFFERING.

[A maiden, beautiful as the folded Hours of her birth, has just entered her chamber to array herself for her birth-night festival, when she is surprised by a vision of Chastity.]

Beautiful Vision!

From whence comest thou?

What is thy mission,

What seek'st of me now?

Art thou an angel,

Beautuous and bright,

Send to watch o'er me

To-night—till night?

Yes, gentle matron,

My mission is to thee;

From the high arch of heaven—

The stormclouds so free—

The sunbeams so bright,

And the stars so bright,

And the spirits of light,

Clouds to the blessed

At the spirit of light,

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